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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4260  
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RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUYNAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY  
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RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 7806  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 0192  
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 6138  
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 8397  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 1486  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3345  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2298  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 9360  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 9825  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 001326

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,  
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;  
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;  
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;  
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;  
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - BURMA, CHINA, AND  
MIDDLE EAST PEACE

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Most Thursday morning papers gave top  
play to the devastation in Sichuan Province, China,  
which was hit by a powerful earthquake on Monday.

¶2. "Junta's Rejection of International Relief Teams a  
Crime Against Humanity" The business-oriented Nikkei  
editorialized (5/15): "...The Burmese junta's rejection  
of international relief teams is increasing the damage  
caused by the cyclone.... UN Secretary-General Ban  
harshly criticized the junta's response to the cyclone  
as 'unacceptably slow.' President Bush and leaders of  
European nations, including the UK and France, also  
voiced criticism of the Burmese regime.... The decision  
by the junta to go forward with a national referendum  
on May 24 in the devastated areas was detached from  
reality.... The UN expressed the view in 2005 that the  
international community has a responsibility to protect  
people if their government commits a crime against  
humanity.... The UN may need to take action to rescue  
those people who are in a life or death situation. The  
responsibility of China and Russia is great, as they  
have close relations with the junta."

¶3. "Protection of Human Life the Primary  
Responsibility" The conservative Sankei argued in an  
editorial (5/15): "...The U.S. and Japan have offered  
all possible support, including personnel assistance,  
to China. Why is China refusing such offers? ... The  
Chinese government declined Japan's offer of a  
professional rescue team by saying that accepting such  
a team would be difficult for the time being due to bad  
road conditions in the devastated areas.... President  
Hu has ordered his subordinates to make every effort

possible to rescue injured persons and ensure the safety of residents in the affected regions. The earthquake was massive. China would be unlikely to lose face even if it were to accept the assistance of foreign nations."

¶4. "Predicament of Palestinian Refugees Should Be Ended" The liberal Asahi's editorial said (5/15): "...The issue of Palestinian refugees must not be forgotten. The number of such refugees registered with the UN has increased to 4.5 million.... Although President Bush is making diplomatic efforts to reach an agreement on Middle East peace before he steps down next January, peace will be impossible without solving the issue of Palestinian refugees.... We hope the U.S. will play a fair and positive role as a mediator."

DONOVAN